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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 1978BUENOS04656

Channel: n/a

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6/16/78

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04656 162118Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6162

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S2000000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

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( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS SHUM, AR

SUBJECT AMBASSADOR AND GEN. VIOLA DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS CASES

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4636

I SAW ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ROBERTO VIOLA EVENING JUNE 15 AND  
RAISED THE FOLLOWING INTEREST CASES WITH HIM:

A. LILIANA DEUTSCH. I SPECULATED WHETHER GENERAL MENENDEZ,  
THIRD CORPS COMMANDER BASED IN CORDOBA, MIGHT BE THE STUMBLING  
BLOCK TO LILIANA'S RELEASE AND ASKED GENERAL VIOLA WHAT COULD  
BE DONE ABOUT THAT. HE REPLIED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS  
CASE WITH MENENDEZ AND SAID THAT "MENENDEZ MAY BE SLOWLY  
COMING AROUND. I THINK MAYBE LILIANA DEUTSCH CAN AT SOME POINT  
BE RELEASED." (COMMENT: I TRIED TO ADD SOME FUEL TO THIS FIRE  
WITH MENENDEZ AS A RESULT OF A TRIP I MADE RECENTLY TO CORDOBA.)  
B. JACOBO TIMERMAN. VIOLA AND I TALKED PHILOSOPHI-  
CALLY ABOUT "NATIONALIST ATTITUDES," AND I SUGGESTED THAT  
FIERCE NATIONALISM CAN GET IN THE WAY OF WHAT A COUNTRY ACTUALLY  
NEEDS TO DO FOR ITSELF. THE TIMERMAN CASE SEEMS TO BE ONE IN  
WHICH "NATIONALIST" SENTIMENT IS KEEPING THE GOVERNMENT  
FROM DOING OBVIOUSLY THE RIGHT THING: LETTING TIMERMAN GO.  
VIOLA CHIMED IN BY SAYING THAT THE TEST OF NATIONALISM MUST -  
BE WHETHER AN ACT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE NATION. HE  
WAS CRITICAL OF SOME OF HIS ARMY FRIENDS DUE TO THEIR FLAG-  
WAVING TACTICS, WHICH WERE NOT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF  
ARGENTINA. HE PLACED THE TIMERMAN CASE IN THAT CATEGORY.

PAGE 02 BUENOS 04656 162118Z

(COMMENT: I RAISED THE TIMERMAN CASE ALSO AT A RECENT CALL  
ON THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT AND WAS GIVEN AN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

Current Handling: n/a

Document Number: 1978BUENOS04656

Channel: n/a

"ENCOURAGING" REPLY, BUT THE FACT SEEMS TO BE THAT THE COMMISSION INVESTIGATING TIMERMAN'S WORLDLY HOLDINGS SEEMS TO BE GRINDING FINE AND SLOWLY.)

C. ALFREDEO BRAVO. VIOLA SEEMED SURPRISED BRAVO HAS NOT BEEN LET GO. (COMMENT: ALL THE NEWSPAPERS LAST WEEKEND SAID HE WOULD BE SENT OUT TO HOUSE ARREST AT ANY MOMENT.) I TOLD HIM WE WERE TOO.

D. PEREZ ESQUIVEL. I MENTIONED THIS CASE BUT GOT NO FIRM REPLY.

E. JULIAN JOSE DELGADO. VIOLA EXPRESSED COMPLETE MENT ABOUT THIS EDITOR OF "CRONISTA COMERCIAL" AND "MERCADO," WHOM THERE WAS NO "SECURITY" INTEREST, A REPUTABLE JOURNALIST AND A FRIEND OF THE CURRENT REGIME. VIOA SAID HE HAS NO REPEAT NO INFORMATION ON WHAT MAY HAVE HAPPENED TO DELGADO.

2. RIGHT OF OPTION. I RAISED THIS TOO, IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW PAROLE QUOTA WE WERE INFORMED OF OFFICIALLY JUST YESTERDAY (JUNE 15). VIOLA ADMITTED THAT THE OPTION PROGRAM HAD BOGGED DOWN BUT CITED BUREAUCRATIC REASONS -- NOT ONES HAVING TO DO WITH PHILOSOPHY OR A TOUGH POLICY. TOO MANY PEOPLE WERE IN THE ACT, HE SAID, AND SYSTEM WAS AT THIS POINT LOADED SO THAT ONE MAN COULD BLOCK A RELEASE. WHAT WOULD HELP, VIOLA SAID, WOULD BE TO HAVE ONE STRONG MAN RUNNING THE WHOLE THING. (COMMENT: IT SEEMS TO US THOUGH THAT THE SYSTEM WAS DELIBERATELY SET UP TO SPREAD AROUND RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT COULD BE A HOT ISSUE -- FOR EXAMPLE, IF A KNOWN TERRORIST GOT THROUGH THE OPTION NETWORK AND WENT ABROAD TO RESUME ACTIVITY AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IT WOULD GO HARD ON ANY ONE PERSON WHO MADE THE DECISION IN HIS FAVOR. CASTRO

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 04656 162118Z

NOTE BY OC/T: NODIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. CASTRODALE S/S-O.

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Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED